

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1805 without my signature.

I strongly support providing care to children with serious emotional disturbances, including the provision of care in whichever facility can best address their needs. While I support the intent and policy behind this bill, I cannot sign it in its current form because it will allow the open-ended reimbursement of claims, including claims submitted and denied prior to 2006-07. Given our state's ongoing fiscal challenges, I cannot support any bill that exposes the state General Fund to such a liability.

I would support legislation that clarifies and narrows state reimbursement for these important services to a specified time period and would ask the Legislature to work with my Administration in January to address this important issue.

For this reason, I am unable to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger